

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 591

By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of the 194th Engineer Brigade of the Tennessee Army National Guard for their meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, our Nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee Army National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee Army National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee Army National Guard selflessly serve with courage and gallantry, and they deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, the 194th Engineer Brigade of the Tennessee Army National Guard, headquartered in Jackson and led by Brigadier General Jimmy Welch and Command Sergeant Major Ronald Jones is one unit worthy of recognition; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2005, the 194th Engineer Brigade assumed the mission and responsibility of assisting in rebuilding southern Iraq from the 115th Engineer Group, Utah Army National Guard, joining the Multi-National Coalition Force participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, the 194th Engineer Brigade, under the guidance of the 18th Airborne Corps, was responsible for the rebuilding of the infrastructure of southern Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the 194th was responsible for the command and control of construction at the Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca detention facility and bolstering security and safety for the detainees as well as the soldiers working in the facility; and

WHEREAS, assigned to the United States Corps of Engineers, the 194th assisted in the design and construction of numerous Iraqi police stations and check points, structures instrumental in the security and stability of the Iraqi government; and

WHEREAS, the 194th was responsible for the security and improvements on Main Supply Route Tampa, the primary supply and logistics route in southern Iraq, improvements which called for supervising the paving and widening of the route; and

WHEREAS, the 194th Engineer Brigade assisted in the design and construction of Iraqi schools and supervised the construction of numerous buildings and facilities within Talil Airbase; and

WHEREAS, throughout their exemplary service in Iraq, the men and women of the 194th Engineer Brigade proudly carried forward and enhanced this State's reputation for bravery and volunteerism as they battled terrorism and supported the establishment of democratic principles of government; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding men and women of the 194th Engineer Brigade performed above and beyond the call of duty and their "Warrior Ethos," which states in part, "I will always place the mission first. I will not accept defeat. I will never quit. I will not leave a fallen comrade. I volunteer sir!"; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 194th Engineer Brigade have proudly upheld the ideal of the citizen-soldier, an essential tradition of American society, and their courageous service stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our Nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly honor the brave and noble men and women of the 194th Engineer Brigade of the Tennessee Army National Guard, as they have made untold and innumerable personal sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and will continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the members of the 194th Engineer Brigade of the Tennessee Army National Guard for their meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we applaud the return of the 194th Engineer Brigade to American soil, and we express our deepest gratitude for the tremendous sacrifices these valiant soldiers have so selflessly made to secure the blessings of liberty for the people of this great Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.